



## 'Get Heard' and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2006

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPSI) is produced by the UK Government every couple of years detailing what steps it is taking to deal with poverty and social exclusion. All other Member States are also required to publish a similar document.

It is important that voluntary and community groups feed their ideas into the next Plan, as the sector has not been involved in previous years. A small consortium of Merseyside organisations have got together to help make this happen, through an initiative called 'Get Heard' which has been set up with the help of the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) and UK Coalition Against Poverty (UKCAP). These organisations are:

- Merseyside Network for Europe (MNfE)
- Merseyside Expanding Horizons (MEH)
- Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory (MSIO)
- Communities Against Poverty (CAP)

### So --- what are we doing?

#### MNfE will lead on 'Get Heard' Information events - April 2005 to June 2005

MNfE is running a number of **free Information Events** to tell voluntary and community groups about the background to the Action Plan and also how to feed into the NAPSI by running 'Get Heard' Workshops. These Information Events began in December 2004 and will continue until mid / end June 2005. A purpose designed Toolkit has been

produced to help organisations run workshops and these are available at the information events. Any organisation intending to run a workshop is strongly advised to attend an Information event first! You'll be given excellent advice about how to arrange a workshop, how to get the best out of your event and how to provide feedback.

**For further details contact Caroline at MNfE on 0151 258 1454 or email: caroline.webber@merseynetwork.com.**

#### MEH will lead on "Get Heard" Workshop support - late April to end June 2005

MEH's role is to support groups running 'Get Heard' Workshops. We have identified a small amount of funding to support (where needed) those voluntary / community groups, who wish to feed into the Plan through running 'Get Heard' Workshops but need a little bit of cash to help them get going, e.g. for the hire of a venue. These workshops will need to be run between late April and end June 2005. We are keen to encourage a spread of workshops across Merseyside, to represent different areas and interests. To help this aim, CAP will be running a number of workshops for local community groups in each of the six Greater Merseyside Boroughs.

MEH will also be responsible for ensuring that feedback is received from each event to inform the next stage. We therefore need to know details of all workshops taking place (regardless of whether you need support from MEH) so that we gather comprehensive feedback information.

**For further details contact Maurice at MEH on 0151 330 0552 or email: mauricemccracken@expandinghorizons.co.uk.**

#### MSIO will lead the 'Get Heard' feedback events - July and September 2005

Merseyside feedback from all the workshops will then be pulled together by MSIO into a report, which will be presented, 1st, to groups who ran workshops at an Initial Feedback Event in July, and then to regional policy makers at the Merseyside Gets Heard event in September. A formal report will then be produced and fed into the 2006 UK National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.

**For further details see future MSIO Newsletters or contact Jenny on 0151 330 2025 or email: jennifer.cross@liverpool.ac.uk.**

This work is really important because it will provide us with key information from groups actively involved in social inclusion which we can then use, not only as a Merseyside input to NAPSI but also to inform post 2006 European developments and to help influence plans developing through the Greater Merseyside Sub-Regional Partnership (see the page 4 interview with Graham Haywood).

#### Please get involved!!!

- Phone Caroline at MNfE to book your place on an Information Event
- Phone Maurice at MEH if you want to run a workshop

### • Contents •

Action Plan 2006 .....	1
Stop Press .....	1
Contact Details .....	1
Inclusion Training Day .....	2
ChangeUp - the work continues .....	2
Kensington Family Support Group .....	3
Impact in St. Helens .....	3
The April Interview .....	4
Website Details .....	4

### STOP PRESS!

#### Prize Winner Announced

Congratulations to **Merseyside One Small Step Schools Sports Association** who have won our prize of £200 worth in vouchers from 3tc. This prize money can be used for equipment, IT support training, design or publicity for their organisation. MEH would like to thank everybody who has sent back their completed questionnaire forms. Your feedback will provide a great foundation for MEH to assess and improve the service we provide to our network.

#### Contact Us:

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# SUCCESS ALL ROUND FOR INCLUSION TRAINING DAY

Our Delivering Social Inclusion Event was held at 3tc Conference Centre on 8 March. In partnership with Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI), the training day was delivered by Dave Simmonds and looked at the essential elements of a social inclusion plan. The day was a great success. Organisations present included Merseyside Disability Federation (MDF), Cobalt Housing, Liverpool Council for Voluntary Service (LCVS), Coalfield Regeneration Trust, MSIO, Rethink, Social Inclusion Action Team (SYCIL), Tranmere Alliance, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and St Helens Council.

On the agenda; key elements in social inclusion strategies were discussed in both a local and national context, best practice for developing plans in relation to Government agenda was explored, along with the aim to further existing knowledge on social inclusion action planning processes.

We conducted both a pre event questionnaire and an event evaluation to monitor the success of our Delivering Social Inclusion course.

The results from the pre event questionnaire found that:

- the trainees had very little knowledge and ability when faced with the task of developing and implementing a social inclusion plan for the first time.
- the trainees showed limited knowledge about the policies and procedures surrounding the National Action Plan.

After conducting our evaluation we found that the general consensus among those who attended found the course to be:

- useful and informative
- provided a good knowledge base for developing plans in the future.
- An invaluable learning opportunity to study UK and European social statistics and key publications that would have an effect on future plans.

'Delivering Social Inclusion' successfully provided an excellent opportunity to explore key texts, identify key issues and explored the challenges faced when writing a plan and the solutions to overcome them. The training day also provided a chance for representatives of the voluntary and community sector and public sector to come together and discuss issues surrounding social inclusion in intimate group sessions away from an office environment.

Following the success of our Delivering Social Inclusion training day, we will be putting on more training days in the near future. So watch this space!

The Delivering Social Inclusion briefing paper is available to download on our website, [www.expandinghorizons.co.uk](http://www.expandinghorizons.co.uk).

Don't miss June's edition of Network News which will feature a special article by Dave Simmonds from CESI!

## CHANGEUP MERSEYSIDE - THE WORK CONTINUES

The voluntary and community sector on Merseyside has done a great job of having its say on ChangeUp. In March around 280 people from voluntary community organisations, spanning grass roots volunteer led groups to sub regional charities and branches of national organisations, attended events across the six boroughs to explore, debate and suggest ways of getting the best out of this unprecedented investment opportunity. ChangeUp is the Home Office Capacity Building and Infrastructure Framework that looks forward to 2014 when it believes that "the needs of frontline voluntary and community organisations will be met by support which is available nationwide, structured for maximum efficiency, offering excellent provision which is accessible to all while reflecting and promoting diversity".

Whilst this "high level outcome" was laudable it was also going to be extremely tough to achieve with only one year of investment funding. An announcement from the Home Office on 22 March announcing 3 year funding turned ChangeUp into a whole new ball game. Three years gives the ChangeUp Consortium on Greater Merseyside much more scope to look collectively towards

some of the major changes that will soon face the voluntary and community sector (VCS), for example the new Charities Bill and the emergence of more regulatory activity from the Charity Commission, and to devise coherent responses to support the VCS in rising to those challenges.

The first full draft of the Greater Merseyside Infrastructure Investment Plan was submitted to Government Office for the North West on 31 March. During April, the Plan will be appraised by a panel that includes VCS specialists along with officers of Government Office, and it will be approved towards the end of April. Once approved all ChangeUp Consortium members will put the Plan on their websites and printed copies will also be available. Then the real work starts. Making sure that this one-off investment programme catalyses improvement in the service of infrastructure bodies, such as MEH and gets the best out of it for voluntary and community groups, large and small across the whole of Greater Merseyside.

For the latest news and information on Merseyside ChangeUp, visit [www.expandinghorizons.co.uk](http://www.expandinghorizons.co.uk).

### Home Office Announcement

Home Secretary Charles Clarke on March 22nd announced new measures to support the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The initiatives to help the VCS reach their full potential as a force for good in society are: 'Compact Plus' - a proposed new opt-in scheme which will shorten and simplify the commitments between Government and voluntary and community organisations to work together; Capacity Builders - a new sector-led agency to manage the ChangeUp fund, the Government's investment programme for VCS infrastructure. This will further drive its benefits to frontline organisations, backed by a further £70 million over the years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008; a further £90 million investment over the years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 for the Future Builders fund which will enable further development in the capacity of voluntary and community organisations to deliver public services; and an investment of £4 million in the Capital Programme to provide incubator' space for embryonic community-based organisations and enterprises. For more information, visit [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk).

# Funders Celebrate Kensington Family Support Group's Success

Kensington Family Support Group held an event on 24 February at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool, to celebrate the launch of their 'Phase II' project. As one of the first organisations to fund the Kensington Family Support group when they initially set up four years ago, Merseyside Expanding Horizons were invited along to the event to meet the organisations, volunteers and families all involved in the project, and with them celebrate their achievements. MEH Project Support Worker, Maurice McCracken, Programme and Finance Assistant, Lisa Baxter, and Communications and Events Officer, Rosina Ndukwe went along to the event and were deeply overwhelmed by the level of courage, dedication and hard work that has been input to make Kensington Family Support Group such a great success.

Maurice McCracken says, "Social Capital is all about giving small groups a chance to prove they can do something worthwhile, even if they just have an idea without a massive track record. The amazing achievements of Kensington Family Support Group, four years on from our first small injection of cash, goes to show that this is a really worthwhile investment."

Guest speakers at the event included Founder of the group, Nora Addy, Father Fitzgerald, Baroness Doreen Massey, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Chief Executive of Kensington Regeneration Lynn Spencer, Chairman, Central Liverpool PCT Gideon Ben-Tovim and web designer Alan Benis. Three female members of the support group also spoke at the event sharing their experiences of being mothers of substance misusers with the audience.

Since the group was set up in 2000, the project has gone from strength to strength but the achievements don't stop there for founder

of the Kensington Family Support Group Nora Addy. Last year, Nora won the individual 'Positive Achievement' award for outstanding contribution to Merseyside. This year, she was one of the individual winners for the 'Women of Inspiration' award, which was awarded to her for her achieving and making a difference for women on Merseyside. Not only that, but Nora has also won both the 'MerseyCare NHS' award for her outstanding contribution for providing care for mental health and drug problems and the 'Individual Carers' award handed to her by the groups funder, Kensington Regeneration.

The development and success of 'Phase I' has shown there is still so much more to be done in this area. The transition into 'Phase II' will see Kensington Family Support Group go forward in their project looking at what is available, carry on raising awareness and offering guidance, advice and social support, whilst developing their facilities to include more focus on the needs of Grandparents and children of substance misusers. The group feel the main barriers of stigma and ignorance attached to drug addiction can be broken down through education and raising awareness about the help and the support the families can receive from organisations like Kensington Family Support Group.

Nora Addy says, "Our group are so grateful to MEH and other the funders such as Kensington Regeneration Trust who have given us support and have had faith in us from the beginning and still continue to show great faith in us. Our success says to everybody out there that with the right support you can achieve your goals. The success of Kensington Family Support Group is down to dedication, commitment and trust. Most importantly communication, without networking and communicating with other organisations as well as the families of



(clockwise from left) Sister Pauline, MEH Community & Events Officer Rosina Ndukwe, Father Fitzgerald and Kensington Family Support Group Founder Nora Addy pictured with the groups official logo.

*substance misusers to keep striving for better support services, we would not be here today. This all links together to provide a service that people are not afraid to turn to for guidance, advice, education and social support when in need of help."*

One of the highlights of the event was seeing Alan Benis present to the group their own brand new website domain [www.warmtears.co.uk](http://www.warmtears.co.uk). Alan Benis had also designed the logo (pictured in the photo above) for them with the help of the group members. It was a surprise gift for the unexpected women who received their gift to a loud round of applause.

The event was a great chance for MEH to see how their funding has benefited the support group and to actually meet and speak with the family members of substance misusers. It was a great experience to meet the members face to face and listen to what they had to say, to reflect on the past achievements and look to the future expansion of Kensington Family Support Group. MEH are very proud to be part of such a worthwhile project that is truly changing lives for the better. We wish Kensington Family Support Group the very best of luck for the future. They are an attribute to the community and they deserve all the success they've achieved.

## MEH Makes an Impact in St Helens

St Helens Council for Voluntary Service held the St Helens Funders Fayre which took place on 16 March at World of Glass, St Helens. Merseyside Expanding Horizons were invited to be an exhibitor at the event along with many other organisations including Merseyside Network for Europe (MNfE), Merseyside Third Technology Centre, Merseyside Disability Federation (MDF) and Prince's Trust who also took part in the exhibition.

The Mayor of St Helens officially opened the Funders Fayre and MEH were given the great opportunity to speak directly to the Mayor of St Helens about the services that we offer. The day provided the community and voluntary sector of St Helens a great chance to find out about available funding and the best way to access funding. The Funder's Fayre was a great way for MEH to meet with the local community and voluntary group based in and around St Helens and offer advice and guidance about the suitable

grants MEH has to offer. It was also a valuable learning opportunity to find out what services the people of St Helens felt needed to be improved and how to fill in these gaps.



# The April Interview

Colette Turner chats with Graham Haywood, CEO Sefton MBC (Chair of SRP Steering Group)

**1. I know that work on developing a Sub-Regional Partnership (SRP) was initially initiated by NWDA - can you explain the reason behind that?**

The NWDA realised that the 5 Sub-Regions in the NW had different needs and priorities and that in some areas such as Merseyside these were based on strong local partnerships. They wanted to consult and work more closely with a single Partnership body in each Sub-Region to aid co-ordination of programmes, selection of priorities for NWDA investment and ensure better links between Sub-Regional plans and the Regional Economic Strategy.

**2. A group has been meeting regularly to develop the proposals - what organisations sit on that group?**

The SRP Steering Group was formed in November 2003 and includes all 6 Local Authorities, The Mersey Partnership, GM Learning and Skills Council, GM Business Link, HE and FE sectors, Merseytravel, Merseyside CVS, Expanding Horizons, Chambers of Commerce on Merseyside, GONW (Objective One) and NWDA Area Office.

**3. How was membership of that group decided?**

The original membership was settled at the NWDA convened Stakeholders meeting in November 2003 and then others have joined as we have sought to be as inclusive as possible.

**4. What is your role?**

As Chair I have sought to achieve agreement as to the scope and pace at which all the existing Greater Merseyside activity can be brought together under the SRP and secure funding for the SRP from NWDA.

**5. How have proposals for the SRP developed, and what is now planned?**  
Proposals for the SRP have been

negotiated with NWDA and we hope to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding in April. It has been agreed that The Mersey Partnership with some revised Governance arrangements to secure wider representation will be the SRP body for Greater Merseyside.

**6. What work now needs to be done to take forward the development of the SRP and what are the timescales?**

The SRP has agreed a Transition Plan with NWDA and is currently concentrating on developing the City Region Plan for the Northern Way, the revision of the Merseyside Economic Strategy and Action Plan (MESAP) and Merseyside inputs to the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Spatial (Planning) Strategy and Regional Transport and Housing Boards. All of this work has to be completed by mid-June 2005.

**7. You do have VS representation on the SRP i.e. Alan Lewis (Liverpool VS) specifically represents the VS and I also attend as a VS member. How do you think the VS could engage more effectively?**

The voluntary sector has a real opportunity to feed into the above strategy work at an operational level as there are now co-ordinated arrangements to deliver this work through an Operations Team headed by John Kelly from Liverpool City Council. All Partners accept that the strategies need to be wider than just economic and social inclusion, health and community safety etc need to be significant components in our plans.

**8. I attend the SRP as a voluntary sector member with specific access to partners specialising in social inclusion. I thought I would be able to advise on how to ensure social inclusion is incorporated into any SRP activity but I have found that difficult to**



*Graham Haywood*  
CEO Sefton MBC  
(Chair of SRP Steering Group)

**do --- mainly because the SRP is working at a very strategic level and concentrating on "big ticket" economic projects. What expertise/advice on social inclusion do you think would be useful to the SRP?**

The voluntary sector needs to engage directly with John Kelly and his team and offer to input your special knowledge and expertise to help write the plans.

**9. How can we keep up to date on SRP developments - is any official communication planned?**

Once we have formally agreed the Memorandum with NWDA we plan a launch event for all Merseyside Stakeholders, probably in mid-summer.

**10. What do you think will work better because of the existence of the SRP?**

The SRP will give Merseyside a stronger, unified voice and greater clarity over priorities to avoid individual groups fighting competitively against each other for NWDA resources. Already the agreed approach to co-ordinating all of the plans required is of benefit.

Let me know who else you would like to see interviewed in future editions of Network News email: [coletteturner@expandinghorizons.co.uk](mailto:coletteturner@expandinghorizons.co.uk).

**Don't forget to visit our website [www.expandinghorizons.co.uk](http://www.expandinghorizons.co.uk) to keep up to date with upcoming events.**